

Announcement

Revised 800-26 System Questionnaire with NIST SP 800-53 References and Associated Security Control Mappings

This year, organizations can meet the Office of Management and Budget FY05 annual requirement for conducting a NIST Special Publication 800-26, “Security Self-Assessment Guide for Information Technology Systems,” system self-assessment in three ways:

- 1) Continue to use 800-26;
- 2) Conduct a self-assessment against the controls contained in NIST Special Publication 800-53, “Recommended Security Controls for Federal Information Systems”; or
- 3) Perform a self-assessment against controls that are consistent with the controls in 800-53.

To assist organizations in completing this year’s system self-assessments, NIST is providing a [modified 800-26 System Questionnaire](#) which contains references and associated mappings to the 800-53 controls. The references to 800-53 provide organizations with a *general* indication of control coverage. The security control mappings or references are not exhaustive and are based on a broad interpretation and general understanding of the control sets being compared. The mappings are created by using the primary security topic identified in each of 800-53 security controls and associated control enhancements (if any) and searching for a similar security topic in 800-26. Please read the Special Note on Questionnaire Usage contained on the first page of the modified System Questionnaire for additional information on control similarity, associated coverage, and how best to use this version of the questionnaire.

NIST is currently revising 800-26 to be consistent with 800-53 and to include a questionnaire for assessing the management of the information system security program. The revision will focus on a modified system level questionnaire that contains the 800-53 control name and number then points the assessor to the upcoming NIST Special Publication 800-53A, “Guide for Assessing the Security Controls in Federal Information Systems”. After completing an 800-53A or comparable assessment, the questionnaire continues to be a standard reporting form to input the five levels of effectiveness. The first draft of the revision to 800-26 is projected for publication in the spring of 2005.

Note: During the mapping analysis, we discovered the need to make some additions to the original mapping table in Appendix G of 800-53. The changes in 800-53 will be provided in an errata sheet at the beginning of the document on page v.